

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 20191

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: BGEN, CGEN, UR

SUBJECT: CRAWFORD CASE: PLANS FOR ARMAND HAMMER MEETING
WITH BREZHNEV

1.DURING AUGUST 21 MEETING LARGELY DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION
OF CRAWFORD CASE, ARMAND HAMMER TOLD ME OF HIS EXPECTA-
TIONS OF MEETING WITH BREZHNEV THIS WEEK. HE SAID THAT
PRESIDENT CARTER HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO TELL BREZHNEV THAT
HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH THE LATTER AT ANY TIME
OR ANY PLACE. HE SAID HE INTENDED TO PRESS THIS MATTER.
(HAMMER'S PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS ON AUGUST 22
DURING CEREMONY OPENING AMMONIA PLANT IN GRIGOREVKA,
EAST OF ODESSA, WERE PRONOUNCED ON HIGH UTILITY OF SUCH
A SUMMIT MEETING. SOVIET OFFICIAL PRESENT ULTIMATELY
INQUIRED OF E/C COUNSELOR IF HAMMER HAD ANY PARTICULAR
AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE THIS PROPOSAL. COUNSELOR REPLIED
THAT HAMMER WOULD PRESUMABLY TELL BREZHNEV WHATEVER
BACKGROUND THERE MIGHT BE.)

2. HAMMER WAS ACCOMPANIED TO MY OFFICE BY WILLIAM F.
MCSWEENEY, PRESIDENT OF OCCIDENTAL INTERNATIONAL, WHO TOLD
MY E/C COUNSELOR THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MARSHALL
SHULMAN PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM U.S. MCSWEENEY MENTIONED
THAT HE HAD BEEN AN AIDE ON THE STAFF OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON
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AND HAD ATTENDED THE GLASSBORO SUMMIT.

3. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION OF BREZHNEV'S HEALTH, WHICH
HAMMER SAID WAS EXCELLENT PER GIEREK, WHO HAD JUST SEEN
HIM, THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO THE CRAWFORD CASE. I
ASKED WHETHER HAMMER INTENDED TO RAISE IT WITH BREZHNEV.
HE REPLIED: "I ALREADY HAVE", CITING A LETTER HE HAD

WRITTEN (AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT, CONVEYED THROUGH SHULMAN, ACCORDING TO HAMMER). BREZHNEV HAD REPLIED ALONG THE LINES OF DOBRYNIN'S RESPONSE TO BROOKS MCCORMICK OF INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER, IN WHICH HE HAD PROPOSED THAT MCCORMICK COME TO EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE AGAINST CRAWFORD OR ELSE SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO DO SO.

4. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF CRAWFORD CASE, I MENTIONED THAT SOVIET BEHAVIOR HAD BEEN INTOLERABLE AND NOTED THAT THEY KNEW HOW TO CONCOCT A CASE. HAMMER THOUGHT THAT SHOWING BROOKS MCCORMICK THE EVIDENCE MIGHT BE A SOVIET WAY TO SETTLE THE CASE.

5. ALTHOUGH HAMMER WAS NON-COMMITTAL WITH ME AS TO WHETHER HE INTENDED TO RAISE CRAWFORD CASE WITH BREZHNEV, BOTH MCSWEENEY AND OCCIDENTAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT ANGELO LEPARULO SEPARATELY INFORMED E/C COUNSELOR THAT HAMMER DEFINITELY WILL RAISE CASE. LEPARULO EVEN SAID IT WAS A MAJOR REASON IN HAMMER'S WISH TO SEE BREZHNEV.

6. ONE QUESTION ABOUT WHICH MCSWEENEY SEEMED PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WAS WHETHER SIMPLE EXPULSION OF CRAWFORD WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO US. HE STATED THAT INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER MIGHT INSIST THAT CRAWFORD BE EXONERATED AND ALLOWED TO RESUME HIS WORK IN THE USSR. I TOLD HIM THAT RELEASE AND EXPULSION, UNDER THE CIRCUM-CONFIDENTIAL

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STANCES, WAS THE MOST WE COULD REASONABLY HOPE FOR.

7. ON HAMMER AIRCRAFT RETURNING FROM ODESSA TO MOSCOW AUGUST 22, MCSWEENEY ASKED E/C COUNSELOR NOT TO SEND CABLE ON THIS SUBJECT. COUNSELOR SAID OUR REPORTING WOULD BE VERY DISCREET. MCSWEENEY THEN SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY "HAMILTON" (JORDAN) TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO HIM ON RESULTS OF HAMMER-BREZHNEV MEETING.

8. LATEST PLANS ARE FOR HAMMER TO FLY TO SIMFEROPOL AUGUST 24 ON SOVIET AIRCRAFT, TO BE DRIVEN TO YALTA AND RETURN TO MOSCOW ON EVENING OF AUGUST 25. I AM NOT SURE WE WILL GET A READOUT ON THIS MEETING BEFORE HAMMER AND MCSWEENEY DEPART BUT ASSUME THAT THEY (PRESUMABLY THE LATTER) WILL REPORT ON RESULTS ONCE IN WASHINGTON. TOON

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